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LOFTUS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

for the Year 1963

of the Medical Officer of Health

T. M. B. ROHAN,
M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
LOFTUS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1963, the contents of which are in accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Health.

During 1963 Loftus obtained its own Clinic which houses facilities offered by the Health Committee of the North Riding County Council. The Clinic, which was first used in September, got away to a fine start and has since been very well attended.

The "Meals on Wheels" service, which was inaugurated in 1962, continued to serve the old people of the district, under the able guidance of the W.V.S.

I would like to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their encouragement throughout the year.

To the Heads of Departments I am again obliged for their co-operation at all times. To Mr. W. C. Ranson, whose report follows mine, I owe an especial debt for his unstinted help in all matters concerning the health of the District.

Finally, I wish to thank the two clerical officers, Mr. R. K. Nuttall and Miss D. E. Fox, who working in the Area Health Office, have contributed materially to the smooth conduct of affairs.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. M. B. ROHAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1964

TABLE 1
Public Health Officers

Whole Time Officers	Guisborough Urban District	Skelton & Brotton Urban District	Loftus Urban District
Medical Officer of Health who is also Asst. County Medical Officer No. 4 Area N.R.C.C. and School Medical Officer, N.R.C.C.	Dr. T. M. B. Rohan		
Public Health Inspectors	*Mr. A. T. Pallister	Mr. J. H. Rhodes	*Mr. W. C. Ranson
Additional Public Health Inspector	Mr. E. Ward	Mr. R. M. Chalmers	Mr. W. Murray

*Also Surveyor of the district concerned

County Public Health Staff attached to the Loftus Area.

Miss R. F. Cracknell	Health Visitor/School Nurse
Miss H. J. Lindsley	District Nurse/Midwife
Miss E. Pressick	District Nurse/Midwife
Mrs. A. Thompson	District Nurse/Midwife (commenced Duty 1-9-63)
Miss D. G. Pybus	District Nurse
Mr. R. K. Nuttall	Senior Clerk
Miss D. E. Fox	Clerk Typist.

SECTION 1.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district in the mid-year 1963 is 8,000 as compared with one of 8,050 for the mid-year 1962.

General Statistics

I am indebted to the Financial Officer of the Council for the following figures:—

1. Area of the District in acres 9,974
2. No. of inhabited houses according to the rate books 2,723
3. Rateable Value £287,519
4. Sum represented by a penny rate £1,115

The District consists of the town of Loftus, the industrial communities of Skinnin-grove and part of Carlin How and the hamlets of Liverton, Scaling, Easington, Street Houses and Cowbar. The principal industries today are the iron and steel works and agriculture.

TABLE 2 — Vital Statistics

CAUSES OF DEATH

	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningo-coccal infection	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	3	—
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung, Bronchus	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	3
Leukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	1	—
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	5	2
Coronary Disease, Angina	19	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	—
Other Heart Diseases	6	6
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	2
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	6	2
Bronchitis	2	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—
Gastro-enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	4	2
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	1	—
Suicide	—	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
ALL CAUSES	59	26

Deaths

The deaths are classified under thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948. 85 deaths of residents gave a corrected death-rate of 12.6 per 1,000 of population compared to 12.2 for England and Wales.

TABLE 3
Vital Statistics

			MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Live Births	81	57	138
Legitimate	79	53	132
Illegitimate	2	4	6
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Still Births	2	2	4
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

				MALE	FEMALE
Total	....	....	....	4	1
Legitimate	....	....	....	4	1
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—

Births

The number of births registered in the district during the year was 138, giving a birth rate of 18.5 per thousand of the population compared to 18.2 for England and Wales.

Five infants under the age of one year died, giving an infantile mortality rate of 36.2 per thousand live births compared with one of 20.9 for England and Wales.

TABLE 4
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES 1963
(other than Tuberculosis)

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Age Un- known
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	161	2	23	25	19	19	72	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningo-coccal-Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 5**Tuberculosis**

Four new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and none of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were no deaths from this disease.

TABLE 6**Immunisation and Vaccination**

Immunisation against Diphtheria	UNDER 1	1 TO 4	5 TO 14	TOTAL
Completed	27	24	3	54
Immunisation against Whooping Cough		0 TO 4	5 TO 14	TOTAL
Completed		49	4	53
Vaccination (Smallpox)	PRIMARY		RE-VACCINATION	
	16		2	
Poliomyelitis Vaccination	PRIMARY		REINFORCING	
	184		174	

The General Provision of Health Services in the District**1. Laboratory Facilities**

This work is now done at the Public Health Laboratory, Middlesbrough, only the biological test for tuberculous milk being carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton.

2. National Health Service Act, 1946

With certain exceptions the Guisborough Area Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee of the County Council exercises the functions of the Local Health Authority in supervising the day to day administration of the services provided under this Act. The Committee met every two months. It is composed of members of the County Council, of the three District Councils of Guisborough, Skelton and Brotton, and Loftus, and of certain co-opted members. Among the services administered are the following:—

Domestic Help Service	Home Nursing
Prevention of illness: Care and After Care	Health Visiting
Ambulance Service	Midwifery
Vaccination and Immunization	Care of Mothers and Young Children.

3. Prevention of Illness: Care and After Care

The work previously carried out under this heading by the Voluntary Care Committee is now being undertaken by the Guisborough Area Health Sub-Committee. Enquiries and requests for assistance may be made to the Medical Officer of Health, District Health Office, Park Lane, Guisborough. (Telephone: Guisborough 2521).

4. National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 — Section 47.

There was no procedure taken under these Acts during 1963.

SECTION II

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1963

by W. C. Ranson, M.R.S.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Loftus Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the work carried out in the year ending 31st December, 1963.

Water Supplies

During the year, fifty-nine samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from various supply points in the district. The samples obtained in the Liverton area continue to shew a quality of water which is below standard, and in the Liverton Village area quantity also has been deficient. During the year, however, the Statutory Water Undertakers have commenced laying extensions of their services to these areas, which should ensure a satisfactory supply.

The following table shews the results of the examination of samples:—

TABLE 1.

AREA OF SUPPLY				CLASSIFICATION											
Zetland Estates—South Loftus	....	....	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	
Wykeham Estates—Liverton Village	....		4	1	—	—	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
Wykeham Estates—Liverton Mines	....		4	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	3	1	
Tees Valley Water Board—Skinningrove	....		1	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	
Tees Valley Water Board—Loftus	....		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Tees Valley Water Board—Easington	....		1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	
Tees Valley Water Board—Liverton Mines			—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Private Supply			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	

Food Premises

The following table shews the number of food premises of various types within the Urban District. In a case where a shop deals in more than one type of goods, cognisance has been taken of the main food sold. Of these premises 33 are also registered for the sale only of ice cream, there being no ice cream manufactured in the district. In addition

7 are registered for the manufacture of sausage, brawn, pies, etc., the main work being the manufacture of sausages. In only two cases are pies manufactured in the district.

Butchers	....	....	....	....	5
Fishmongers	....	....	....	....	1
Grocers	....	....	....	....	21
Greengrocers	....	....	....	....	5
Bakers and Confectioners	....	....	....	....	2
Sweets and General Goods	....	....	....	....	27
Canteens, etc.	....	....	....	....	7
Licensed premises	....	....	....	....	18
Fish frying premises	....	....	....	....	7
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	4

87 visits of inspection of registered food premises were made during the year.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1956

During the year, 205 visits were made to food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations, and, the general standard of hygiene was very good. In 12 cases where attention was drawn to infringements, the trouble was remedied by informal action.

Licensed Premises

There are 18 licensed premises in the area. Thirty-one inspections have been made to these.

Fish Frying.

There are seven fish frying premises in the district. These were inspected on 18 occasions.

Bakehouses

There are four bakehouses in use in the district. Eighteen inspections of these were carried out.

Food Poisoning

No outbreak of food poisoning was notified to me during the year.

Meat Inspection

100% inspection for all meat slaughtered within the district has been carried out, at the two private slaughterhouses operating, and for this purpose 369 visits were made. 1632 lbs. of meat and offal were condemned as being diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption, and the whole of this amount was surrendered voluntarily.

TABLE 2

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1008	88	13	2293	1370	—
Number inspected	1008	88	13	2293	1370	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	16	9	—	2	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tubercul- osis and cysticerci	1.59%	10.23%	—	0.082%	0.07%	—
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	10	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.09%	—	—	—	0.73%	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Cysticercus Bovis	0.69%	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING

Housing Statistics

New houses erected in 1963

(a)	By private owners	....	8
(b)	By the Council	....	Nil

1. *Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year*

1.	(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	....	591
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	720
2.	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	....	0
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	0
3.		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		30
4.		Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	561

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices*

(1)	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit or repaired in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	560
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year*

A. Proceedings under Sections 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	....	0
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices		
(a)	By Owners	....	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	....	0

Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	0
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices		
(a)	By Owners	....	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	....	0

Housing Statistics—continued

C.	Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957		
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made		16
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders		4
D.	Proceedings under Section 16, 17, 18, 26 and 35, Housing Act, 1957		
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made		0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	....	0
4.	<i>Housing Act, 1936, Part 4, Overcrowding</i>		
	No accurate figures are available.		
5.	<i>Housing Act, 1949, and Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954 and 1957</i>		
(1)	(a) Number of Improvement Grants made—Standard	....	31
	Discretionary	....	6
	(b) Number of Improvement Grants refused	....	0
(2)	(a) Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	....	0
	(b) Number of Certificates of Disrepair revoked	....	0

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

The following table shews the inspections for Nuisances which have been carried out by my department during the year. These inspections do not include inspections made under the Housing Acts, but include all inspections, other than food inspections, made during the year.

TABLE 3

Nuisances

Total number of inspections made for nuisances only	172		
Nuisances found	156		
Nuisances in hand end of previous year	17		
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Total needing abatement	173		
Abated during the year	171		
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Outstanding at end of year	2		
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Notices served—Informal	156	Complied with	137
Notices served—Statutory	0	Complied with	0
Number of summonses or legal proceedings — Nil.			

Regulated Buildings, Trades, Etc.

There are no common lodging houses, houses let in lodgings or knackers' yards.

Byelaws in force in the District

Building Byelaws, 21st August, 1953.

Sanitary Accommodation.

Conversion of pail closets and privies to the water carriage system has continued at a satisfactory rate. During the year there were 39 conversions bringing the total number of houses with the water carriage system to 2750 and reducing the number of houses without to 81.

Owners of property are notified of the grant paid by the Council towards the cost of converting to the water carriage system when sanitary pans are reported as being defective. This grant, plus the increase in the cost of sanitary pans, has greatly assisted towards the increased number of conversions.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection of refuse throughout the district, except for isolated dwellings, has been maintained on a weekly basis throughout the year under review. This has been possible by using additional transport and men to augment the regular collection team to cover time lost on public holidays.

Tipping has continued during the year at the Deepdale shale tip. Controlled tipping has been carried out using the tractor digger full-time to cover the refuse with shale.

Shops Acts, 1950, Section 37 and 38

Sixty-four visits were paid under the above-mentioned sections. Unsatisfactory conditions were found in 9 instances and were remedied.

Movable Dwellings

There are three licensed caravan sites in the area. Twenty-one visits were made during the year, and where unsatisfactory conditions were found, they were remedied by informal action.

Sewer and Sewage Disposal

The disposal of sewage is carried out by discharge into the sea, and during the year under review there have been no complaints received in connection with the sewer outfall. The sewer mouth marker beacon was re-erected. Some 1,000 yards of the main sewer was thoroughly cleansed by contract during the year and about 12 tons of stone and silt removed.

Blockages on the smaller sewers continue to occur, many of which have been found to be caused by abuse.

During the year plans and bills of quantities for the sewerage scheme to serve Liverton Village have been completed and the necessary consents are now being sought in order that work can be commenced.

New drainage work on the Council's housing schemes and also on private development continues to be tested, and, where practicable, the water test is applied. Advice on suitable drainage lay-outs is also given when required. In this connection the co-operation between local contractors and my department has been very good, and notification of drainage work has been consistently submitted, thus enabling this work to proceed efficiently and smoothly.

Snow Clearance

A very considerable amount of time and money was spent on snow clearance during the period of exceptionally severe weather over the first 12 weeks of the year. Sunken roads in this area considerably aggravate the position at times like these.

Clean Air Act.

The following table shews the deposit in tons per square mile in respect of the deposit gauge at Skinningrove and the concentration of smoke in microgrammes per cubic metre in respect of the smoke filter at Loftus. Readings at the deposit gauge, classed as an industrial site, have been below average for the area, but the percentage of Fe_2O_3 is high in proportion. The readings from the smoke filter shew reasonably satisfactory results.

Twenty-eight observations were made of smoke emissions from plant in the area.

TABLE 4
Atmospheric Pollution Tests

DEPOSIT GAUGE, SKINNINGROVE						SMOKE FILTER, LOFTUS			
Month	pH Value	Rainfall	Undissolved Matter	Dissolved Matter	Fe_2O_3	Month	Highest Value	Lowest Value	Average
Jan.	7.0	2.33	16.70	23.12	4.51	Jan.	—	—	—
Feb.	5.5	1.42	12.12	5.54	3.44	Feb.	—	—	—
March	7.0	1.56	8.52	7.01	2.00	March	—	—	—
April	6.6	1.04	5.08	8.58	0.76	April	—	—	—
May	6.8	1.30	46.40	11.59	7.01	May	93	43	68
June	6.0	3.85	18.34	39.40	3.93	June	127	10	45
July	6.8	0.92	9.08	3.81	1.67	July	79	9	39
Aug.	5.2	4.98	10.75	50.80	2.30	Aug.	95	6	44
Sept.	6.5	1.17	7.82	12.69	2.19	Sept.	121	24	61
Oct.	6.6	1.37	7.46	5.85	2.61	Oct.	125	43	78
Nov.	6.6	3.17	10.82	13.33	3.54	Nov.	159	41	100
Dec.	7.0	1.62	11.86	9.79	4.38	Dec.	236	28	122

TABLE 5.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	79	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	2	7	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	22	86	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Rodent Control.

The rodent operative appointed jointly by Loftus U.D.C. and Skelton & Brotton U.D.C. has continued his duties in the two areas, this arrangement working very satisfactorily. Sewers in the area were treated twice during the year, light infestations by rats being found in isolated areas. Both refuse tips continue to be kept free of vermin. Inspections and treatments of properties in the area were carried out as necessary.

In conclusion, I would express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, to Dr. T. M. B. Rohan, The Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. W. Murray, the Deputy Surveyor and Additional Public Health Inspector, for their interest and help in the running of the Department, and also the staff and workmen, whose loyal services aids so much efficient operation. I would also like to thank Mr. T. C. Ellison, the Clerk of the Council, for his close co-operation at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. RANSON,

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.

